

Vice-Chancellor's address, which faithfully reflected the opinion of the great majority of resident graduates of the University, was one of the most satisfactory features of the day's proceedings. Nor was evidence lacking that where high ideals and earnest effort are present material assistance is soon forthcoming. The pathological department was largely built and equipped by private generosity, and the Drapers' Company, to whom the University is already indebted for a beautiful and commodious building for housing the Radcliffe library of scientific works, has undertaken to defray the expense of a new electrical laboratory for the use of the Wykeham professor of physics.

All well-wishers of Oxford may join in congratulating her on what she has already achieved, and not less on the abundant promise of future achievement.

MEASUREMENTS OF THE CHINESE.

WE have received from Mr. A. H. Crook, Queen's College, Hong Kong, average measurements of various dimensions of Chinese boys and youths between the ages of ten and twenty-four years, the most important of which we give below. The British Association averages for English boys of the same age, so far as they are available, are printed beneath the corresponding Chinese measurements. Mr. Crook points out an interesting difference in the growth curves of weight and height of the two races.

MEASUREMENTS OF CHINESE BOYS.

Ages No.	...	...	...	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	...	...	...	3	6	15	27	55	95	133	112	98	63	34	12	3	3
Weight.																	
Chinese	...	...	...	64.2	66.2	73.6	78.7	90.9	97.6	101.6	106	108.9	114.4	113.4	115.3	116.7	100.1
English	...	...	...	67.5	72.6	76.7	82.6	92	102.7	119	130.9	137.4	139.6	143.3	145.2	146.9	147.8
Height.																	
Chinese	...	...	...	54.1	54	56	59.6	62.2	62.9	63.5	64.2	64	65.7	65.6	65	64.6	62.4
English	...	...	...	51.8	53.5	55	56.9	59.3	62.2	64.3	66.2	67	67.3	67.5	67.6	67.7	67.5
Chest (Normal).																	
Chinese	...	...	...	24.8	24.6	25.6	26	27.5	28.7	29	29.3	30.1	30.3	30.5	30.5	31.3	29.7
English	...	...	...	26.1	26.5	27.2	28	28.5	29.7	31.5	33.6	34.19	34.5	35	35.2	35.3	35.6
Chest (Expanded).																	
Chinese	...	...	...	26.8	26.3	27	27.8	29.3	30.3	30.8	31.4	31.8	32.1	32.2	31.6	33.2	31.4
Neck (Circumference).																	
Chinese	...	...	...	10.3	10.4	11	11.2	11.8	12.2	12.5	12.7	13	13.2	13.1	13	13.3	12.9
Wrist (Circumference).																	
Chinese	...	...	...	4.8	4.6	5	5	5.3	5.4	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.7
Hips (Circumference).																	
Chinese	...	...	...	27.1	26	27	27.3	29.3	30.2	30.7	31.1	31.7	32	32	31.6	32.2	31.2

From the figures it will be seen that Chinese boys, though lighter in weight, are taller than English boys up to the age of sixteen. After that the stature of the English boy increases much more rapidly than that of the Chinese boy. Mr. Crook thinks that this important difference is due to the fact that the Chinese boy takes much less exercise than the English boy after the critical age. It may be partly due to that, but it is highly probable that the greater part of the difference is racial. Mr. Crook remarks on the small amount of chest expansion of the Chinese, but the 2 inches which he usually obtains is little, if any, short of English and French normals. Mr. Crook's measurements are of considerable value, and it is much to be desired that Englishmen residing among little-known races should imitate his example.

NO. 2033, VOL. 78]

MOSQUITOES AND PEAT.

THE likes and dislikes of mosquitoes are so multifarious that one may never be surprised at anything in their bionomics. Some prefer to live in their larval stages at the edge of weedy pools and rivers, some in clear pools, others in such artificial collections of water as are to be found in old sardine tins, calabashes, cisterns, rain-water barrels, and tanks on board steamers, even the liquid in the pitcher plants forms a breeding ground, and yet others occur in the water held up in cut and insect-damaged bamboos. Each species seems to have its own particular place to live.

A recent letter in the *Times* refers to the absence of mosquitoes in swamps and marshes with peat. The writer, "Many Lands," says:—"Given marshy lands and no peat mosquitoes abound, given marshy land and peat there are none." This may be true where the writer has been, and in many other places, but it is not a universal rule. It must certainly depend on what species the mosquitoes are, for we have found such as *Anopheles nigripes*, Staeg., and *Anopheles bifurcatus*, Linn., breeding in the water of peat cuttings in Wales and Somerset, and on the far-famed Wicken Fen numbers of *Culex cantans*, Meigen, in the waters there. Mosquitoes are often very abundant in the fens, even where the peat is dug. Besides these, we have found *Anopheles maculipennis*, Meig., and *Theobaldia annu-*

lata, Meig., in peaty water and near peat piles in North Wales. In America Smith records that the mosquito larvæ are few where sphagnum swamps abound, and we may find that peat areas are similarly not favourable to certain mosquitoes. Nothing definite is known of this subject. It would not be waste of time to try if a few blocks of peat thrown into a pool or artificial collection of water would destroy the larvæ, but from what we have seen of at least five of our twenty-two British Culicidæ it seems doubtful if it would do so.

Towards the end of the letter in the *Times* the writer says, "for of course mosquitoes cannot breed in salt water."

This statement is quite incorrect, for many do so. Take Australia alone, and we find three species

breeding in salt water, namely, *Mucidus alternans*, Westwood, *Culex vigilax*, Skuse, and *Nyssorhynchus annulipes*, Walker. In Malta we get *Acartomyia zammitii*, Theobald, in Italy *Culex salinus*, Ficalbi, living in salt water, and others could be mentioned. It would be as inaccurate to say that mosquitoes cannot breed in water on marshy land with peat as it is to say they cannot breed in salt water.

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NOTES.

It is announced that Sir Daniel Morris, K.C.M.G., Imperial Commissioner, West Indian Agricultural Department, has resigned his post, which he has occupied with conspicuous success during the past ten years.

It is estimated by an officer of the American Department of Agriculture that the recent forest fires in the United States have caused losses at the rate of a million dollars a day. In New York State alone 44,935 acres were destroyed by the flames by the end of September. The Forestry Bureau at Washington has issued a statement declaring that probably in every instance the fires might have been prevented if the States had provided an adequate number of men to patrol the woods and stop the fires at their beginning, and if lumbermen and others who use the forests had been careful to dispose of brushwood after logging.

The first International Road Congress was opened at Paris on Monday at the Sorbonne, Paris, under the presidency of M. L  thier, Inspector-General of Bridges and Roads. More than two thousand delegates, representing twenty-nine countries, are attending the congress. Among the groups of subjects to be discussed are:—construction and maintenance of roads; general methods of maintenance; wear and dust; traffic and its working; effect of new methods of locomotion upon the roads; the effect of the roads upon vehicles; signals upon the road; roads and services of mechanical transport.

THE winter lectures at the London Institution, Finsbury Circus, London, E.C., will begin on October 26, and continue until the end of February, 1909, two lectures being delivered each week. The programme arranged is of a varied character. Among the lectures we notice the following:—excavations in Memphis, by Prof. W. M. Flinders Petrie, F.R.S.; underground water supply, by Mr. C. Carus-Wilson; sea-urchins and the relation between the individual and its environment, by Dr. J. W. Jenkinson; Mendelian heredity, by Mr. William Bateson, F.R.S.; and the use of oxygen: demonstration of life-saving apparatus for use in mines and submarines, by Mr. Leonard E. Hill, F.R.S.

THE bison range in the Flathead Indian Reservation in Montana, to establish which the United States Congress at its last session appropriated \$8000., has been selected. We learn from *Science* that the range is the one recommended by Prof. Morton J. Elrod, of the University of Montana, after he had examined carefully several parts of the country. It lies directly north of the Jocko River near the towns of Ravalli and Jocko. Approximately 12,800 acres are embraced in the tract, which will be fenced in a substantial manner. Of the amount appropriated, only \$2000. will be available for fencing the range and constructing the shelter sheds and other buildings necessary for the proper maintenance and care of the bison. The remaining \$6000. will be paid to the owners of the land, many of whom are Indians. Funds for the

purchase of bison are being raised under the auspices of the American Bison Society, which was largely instrumental in securing the grant.

ON October 10, in the presence of the leading aeronautical experts of France, Mr. Wilbur Wright, with M. Painlev   as a passenger, accomplished a flight of 1h. 9m. 45.6s. in duration, the distance covered being estimated at nearly seventy kilometres. This successful flight is the last demanded of Mr. Wright by the French syndicate which has acquired the local rights in his aeroplane by the payment of 10,000*l.* at once and 10,000*l.* in a month's time, after three men have been trained to work the machine. The *Daily Mail* states that on November 1 the Soci  t   navale des Chantiers de France will begin at Dunkirk the construction of fifty Wright aeroplanes, which are to be sold at the price of 1000*l.* each. The A  ro Club of France has decided to award to the brothers Orville and Wilbur Wright its grand gold medal for the year 1908.

THE Committee on Ancient Earthworks and Fortified Enclosures, under the chairmanship of Lord Belcarres, has during the past year lost the services of two men who contributed largely to the conservation of these important remains—Mr. I. Chalkley Gould and Sir John Evans. It is satisfactory to learn that Maiden Castle, near Dorchester, has been transferred to the care of the Commissioners of Works; and that mounds at Thetford Castle, in Norfolk, and Waytemore, near Bishop's Stortford, have been taken over by the local authorities. So far only the county councils of Hertfordshire, Leicestershire, London, Staffordshire, the West Riding of York, Galway, and Louth have exercised the powers conferred by the Ancient Monuments Act of 1900. Meanwhile Scotland and Wales have succeeded in procuring the appointment of Royal Commissions to compile an inventory of their local antiquities. It is high time that antiquaries in England pressed for a similar measure, and for the appointment of an Inspector of Ancient Monuments, particularly as much recent damage is reported from various parts of the country. The report of the committee gives interesting details of excavations in progress, and notes some cases in which measures have been taken to check that spirit of vandalism which is now happily decreasing under the watchful care of the local archaeological societies.

THE first meeting of the council of the International Electrotechnical Commission is to be opened by Mr. Balfour on October 19 at the new rooms of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, Victoria Embankment. The commission originated through resolutions of the Government delegates to the St. Louis Electrical Congress in 1904, when it was decided that steps should be taken to secure the cooperation of the technical societies of the world by the appointment of a representative commission to consider the question of the standardisation of the nomenclature and ratings of electrical apparatus and machinery. A preliminary meeting of the International Electrotechnical Commission was held in London in June, 1906, fourteen countries being represented. The chief question which will be discussed next week is that of nomenclature. The subcommittee on nomenclature, under Mr. A. P. Trotter, appointed by the British committee, has been at work during the past year trying to settle the best explanations for the terms in general use in the electrical industry, and has drawn up a preliminary list. The suggestions put forward by the French committee for a provisional standard of light are to be considered, and the subject of the metric system as affecting the work of the commission is also to be discussed.